

The Desert SUSTAINER

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First Gitmo prisoner gets lawyer

WASHINGTON — An Australian prisoner at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, has become the first foreign terrorist suspect to be given a U.S. military lawyer, the Pentagon announced Wednesday.

Marine Corps Maj. Michael Mori will represent David Hicks, the Defense Department said in a brief statement. Hicks also will be given access to an Australian lawyer to act as a legal adviser, said Pentagon spokesman Maj. Michael Shavers.

Hicks is one of six prisoners at the U.S. Navy base in Cuba whom President Bush named as possible candidates for trial by a special military tribunal for terrorism suspects. One other Australian citizen is among the more than 660 men and boys being held there.

Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz will make the final decision on which Guantanamo prisoners, if any, will face trial. Wolfowitz has not decided on Hicks' case, the Pentagon statement said.

The United States and Australia announced last week they had reached an agreement on how Hicks would be tried before a U.S. military tribunal. Australian

officials said they were satisfied Hicks would get a fair trial.

U.S. officials assured Australia that Hicks would not face the death penalty and would not have his conversations with his lawyer monitored by American troops. The Bush administration also has agreed to allow terrorism

suspects like Hicks to have lawyers from their home countries act as advisers during any trial, a measure not allowed in the original rules for the tribunals.

Steve Ingram, a spokesman for Australian Attorney General Philip Ruddock, said his government was holding talks with the U.S. military about allowing an Australian attorney into Cuba to act as a consultant with the U.S. lawyer on Hicks' case. Ingram would not comment on who that might be.

"The minister recently made it clear that matters were progressing and



this is an indication of that," Ingram said.

Mori will travel to Guantanamo within the next few days to meet with Hicks and inform him of the tribunal rules, Shavers said. The visit will be the first of any defense lawyer to the high-security prison camp.

Hicks, a former cowboy who converted to Islam, was captured in Afghanistan in late 2001 and later brought to the Guantanamo prison. Australian officials have said Hicks is accused of training with Al Qaeda for several months in Afghanistan.

Arab population in U.S. has doubled in last two decades

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Arab population in the United States has nearly doubled in the past two decades, according to the Census Bureau's first report on the group.

Experts cited liberalized U.S. immigration laws and unrest in the Middle East that led many people to come to America.

The bureau counted nearly 1.2 million Arabs in the United States in 2000, compared with 860,000 in 1990 and 610,000 in 1980. About 60 percent trace their ancestry to three countries: Lebanon, Syria and Egypt.

"Immigrants from the Arab world come for the same reason all immigrants come — economic opportunity, opportunities to have an education, to develop a professional career," said Helen Samhan, executive director of the Arab American Institute Foundation, a research group.

Almost half of the Arabs in the United States live in five states — California (190,890), New York (120,370), Michigan (115,284), New Jersey (71,770) and Florida (77,461).

"It would be better to come to America than Europe or Canada," said Zak Trad, 33, of Anaheim, California, who came from Lebanon three years ago. "It's the largest Arab community not in an Arab country. I didn't think I would be a stranger here."

New York City, the first stop for millions of immigrants for more than a century, had the largest Arab population among U.S. cities, 69,985. The Detroit suburb of Dearborn, Michigan, where many Arabs first settled to work in the automobile industry, was next at 29,181.

The census report stops at 2000 so there is no data to measure the impact of the attacks of September 11, 2001.

Army clarifies promotion policy

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Dec. 2, 2003) — The Army News Service article posted on Nov. 25 on the conditional promotion policy being rescinded prompted a lot of questions from soldiers in the field.

“Can a specialist be conditionally be promoted to sergeant with the new changes coming up?” asked Spc. Mitchell Bosch, a soldier in the Hawaii-based 65th Engineer Battalion, via an e-mail to Army News Service.

Other soldiers around the Army have emailed or called Army News Service asking the same question.

They can be promoted, said Sgt. Maj. Julian Edmondson, the personnel policy integrator at the Pentagon’s G-1 staff.

Under a new policy dated Oct. 10, the Army will stop all conditional promotions from sergeant to sergeant first class after Jan. 1.

The only exception

to the new policy was conditional promotion from specialist or corporal to sergeant. They don’t need to attend PLDC to be promoted, Edmondson said.

In fact, the requirement for a specialist or corporal to complete Primary Leadership Development Course within one

year of promotion has been waived too, Edmondson said.

“Now there is no (noncommissioned officer education system) requirement for PLDC,” Edmondson said.

Under the old policy, a soldier promoted to sergeant had to finish PLDC within one year to keep the rank. That’s changed, Edmondson said. A soldier promoted to sergeant doesn’t need PLDC at all to keep the rank but will need it for consideration for staff sergeant, he said.

“Before they to go to keep it. But not now,” Edmondson said.

Here’s how the new policy will look:

- A sergeant has to graduate from the Primary Leadership Development Course to be considered for promotion to staff sergeant.
- A staff sergeant has to graduate from the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course to be considered for promotion to sergeant first class.
- A sergeant first class has to graduate from the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course to be considered for promotion to master sergeant.

TMC CLOSURE

The troop medical clinic will be closed on the following days except for emergency - life, limb or eyesight - situations:
Christmas - Thursday, Dec. 25, and New Year’s - Thursday, Jan. 1. For more information contact Maj. Douglas Olney at 318-528-1413.

VEHICLE POLICY

No soldier or Department of the Army civilian is permitted to possess, operate or obtain a privately owned vehicle to include a motorcycle or other motorized vehicle. Any POVs in the possession of soldiers and DA civilians will be confiscated by the military police or base operations personnel.

DFAC 2 Wins

The trophy for Thanksgiving’s best decorated dining facility goes to DFAC 2. “They had the best decorations, displays and esprit de corps,” said Sgt.Maj. Andrea Farmer, the 3d COSCOM’s G-4 sergeant major. DFAC 1 finished second followed by DFAC 3.

CONTACT US

The Desert Sustainer is a newsletter compiled printed and published by the 3rd Corps Support Command Public Affairs Office. Please send any comments, suggestions, submissions or story ideas to us by email at grant.calease@us.army.mil, or call 558-2053, or stop by Bldg. 4137.

Blue Devils rout Spartans

EAST LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Duke's talent, grit and mystique made Michigan State crumble.

With stifling defense and balanced scoring, the Blue Devils turned the marquee matchup of the ACC-Big Ten Challenge into a classic rout.

Shelden Williams scored 16 points to lead four Blue Devils in double figures and No. 6 Duke forced a slew of turnovers in a 72-50 victory over No. 5 Michigan State on Wednesday night.

Duke (4-1) took control of the game in the first half with a 20-2 run during which the Spartans committed 17 of their 20 turnovers.

"Our kids played an unbelievable game defensively," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "And I think we were efficient for the first time for a whole game on the offensive end."

The Blue Devils handed Michigan State (3-2) its most-lopsided loss at the Breslin Center since a 25-point setback against Minnesota in 1997, and just its fifth loss at home since the start of the 1998-99 season.

"We played scared," Michigan State coach Tom Izzo said. "I've never seen anything like it."

Duke's J.J. Redick scored 13 points,



Duke's Chris Duhon had 10 points and six assists in 39 minutes to help the Devils to the easy road victory.

Shavlik Randolph had 11 and Chris Duhon added 10 points and six assists.

"This is one of the most hostile environments we'll ever play in," Randolph said. "And it showed a lot that

we not only won, but won handily."

Michigan State didn't have a player score in double figures, after entering the game with six averaging at least 9.8 points.

NCAA Men's Basketball Top 25

1. Kansas	2-0
2. Florida	2-0
3. UCONN	4-1
4. Missouri	1-0
5. Michigan St.	3-1
6. Duke	3-1
7. Arizona	1-1
8. Texas	3-0
9. Kentucky	2-0
10. North Carolina	3-0
11. Illinois	3-0
12. St. Joseph's	3-0
13. Georgia Tech	5-0
14. Oklahoma	3-0
15. Wisconsin	3-0
16. Syracuse	1-1
17. Gonzaga	3-1
18. Wake Forrest	3-0
19. Cincinnati	3-0
20. Purdue	4-0
21. Stanford	3-0
22. Pittsburgh	4-0
23. Notre Dame	2-0
24. Marquette	4-0
25. Oklahoma St.	3-0

National Hockey League

EASTERN		WESTERN	
ATLANTIC		CENTRAL	
Flyers	36	Red Wings	32
Devils	34	Blues	30
Rangers	25	Predators	27
Islanders	20	Blue Jackets	20
Penguins	17	Black Hawks	19
NORTHEAST		NORTHWEST	
Maple Leafs	33	Canucks	33
Bruins	32	Avalanche	31
Sabres	27	Flames	24
Senators	27	Oilers	23
Canadiens	25	Wild	22
SOUTHEAST		PACIFIC	
Thrashers	28	Sharks	26
Lightning	27	Kings	26
Panthers	22	Mighty Ducks	25
Hurricanes	22	Stars	25
Capitals	18	Coyotes	23

NFL Standings

AFC		NFC	
East		East	
Patriots	10-2	Eagles	9-3
Dolphins	8-4	Cowboys	8-4
Bills	5-7	Giants	4-8
Jets	5-7	Redskins	4-8
West		West	
Chiefs	11-1	Rams	9-3
Broncos	7-5	Seahawks	8-4
Raiders	3-9	49ers	5-7
Chargers	2-10	Cardinals	3-9
North		North	
Bengals	7-5	Vikings	7-5
Ravens	7-5	Packers	6-6
Browns	4-8	Lions	5-7
Steelers	4-8	Bears	4-8
South		South	
Colts	9-3	Panthers	8-4
Titans	9-3	Saints	6-6
Texans	5-7	Buccaneers	5-7
Jaguars	3-9	Falcons	2-10

NBA Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE		WESTERN CONFERENCE	
ATLANTIC		MIDWEST	
76ers	-	Mavericks	-
Nets	1.5	Nuggets	-
Celtics	1.5	Jazz	1.5
Wizards	2	Rockets	1.5
Knicks	2	T-Wolves	2
Heat	3.5	Grizzlies	2.5
Magic	7.5	Spurs	2.5
CENTRAL		PACIFIC	
Pacers	-	Lakers	-
Pistons	1.5	Kings	2
Hornets	2	Sonics	4.5
Raptors	4.5	Blazers	5
Bucks	5.5	Warriors	6
Hawks	9	Clippers	7
Bulls	9.5	Suns	7.5
Cavs	11		